

# NIH scientists publish declaration criticizing Trump's deep cuts in public health research

By Calvin Woodward  
and Nathan Ellgren  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In his confirmation hearings to lead the National Institutes of Health, Jay Bhattacharya pledged his openness to views that might conflict with his own. "Dissent," he said, "is the very essence of science."

That commitment is being put to the test.

On Monday, scores of scientists at the agency sent their Trump-appointed leader a letter titled the Bethesda Declaration, challenging "policies that undermine the NIH mission, waste public resources, and harm the health of Americans and people across the globe."

It says: "We dissent."

In a capital where insiders often insist on anonymity to say such things publicly, 92 NIH researchers, program directors, branch chiefs and scientific review officers put their signatures on the letter — and their careers on the line. An additional 250 of their colleagues across the agency endorsed the declaration without using their names.

The letter, addressed to Bhattacharya, also was sent to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and members of Congress who oversee the NIH. White House spokesman Kush Desai defended the administration's approach to federal research and

said President Donald Trump is focused on restoring a "Gold Standard" of science, not "ideological activism."

The letter came out a day before Bhattacharya is to testify to a Senate committee about Trump's proposed budget, opening him to questions about the broadside from declaration signers, and it stirred Democrats on a House panel to ask the Republican chair for hearings on the matter.

## CONFRONTING A 'CULTURE OF FEAR'

The signers went public in the face of a "culture of fear and suppression" they say Trump's administration has spread through the federal civil service. "We are compelled to speak up when our leadership prioritizes political momentum over human safety and faithful stewardship of public resources," the declaration says.

Bhattacharya responded to the declaration by saying it "has some fundamental misconceptions about the policy directions the NIH has taken in recent months," such as suggestions that NIH has ended international collaboration.

"Nevertheless, respectful dissent in science is productive,"

he said in a statement. "We all want the NIH to succeed."

Named for the agency's headquarters location in Maryland, the Bethesda Declaration details upheaval in the world's premier public health research institution over the course of mere months.

It addresses the termination of 2,100 research grants valued at more than \$12 billion and some of the human costs that have resulted, such as cutting off medication regimens to participants in clinical trials or leaving them with unmonitored device implants.

In one case, an NIH-supported study of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis in Haiti had to be stopped, ceasing antibiotic treatment mid-course for patients.

In a number of cases, trials that were mostly completed were rendered useless without the money to finish and analyze the work, the letter says. "Ending a \$5 million research study when it is 80% complete does not save \$1 million," it says, "it wastes \$4 million."

## Legal Notice

TRUST NOTICE IN THE  
MATTER OF THE TRUST:  
ROBERT J. REAMS  
TRUST a/k/a ROBERT J. REAMS  
TRUST DATED 04/27/2022

To all persons regarding Robert J. Reams Sr., deceased, who died on or about April 22, 2025. You are hereby notified that the trustee listed below is the trustee of the ROBERT J. REAMS TRUST (a/k/a ROBERT J. REAMS TRUST DATED 04/27/2022), dated on April 27, 2022, as amended by the FIRST AMENDMENT TO ROBERT J. REAMS TRUST (a/k/a ROBERT J. REAMS TRUST DATED 04/27/2022), dated March 12, 2024. Any action to contest the validity of the trust must be brought in the District Court of Floyd County, Iowa, within the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice to the spouse of the decedent settlor, and to all heirs of the decedent settlor whose identities are reasonably ascertainable. Any suit not filed within this period shall be forever barred.

Notice is further given that any person or entity possessing a claim against the trust must mail proof of the claim to the trustee at the address listed below via certified mail, return receipt requested, by the later to occur of four (4) months from the second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice if required or the claim shall be forever barred unless paid or otherwise satisfied.

Dated on May 27, 2025.  
Mitchell A. Reams, Trustee  
2711 County Road I  
Saukville, Wisconsin 53080

David A. Grooters  
# AT0003058  
Pappajohn, Shriver, Eide &  
Nielsen P.C.  
103 East State Street, Suite 800  
Mason City, Iowa 50401  
Attorney for Trustee

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Public Notice  
IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
FOR FLOYD COUNTY  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
GRACE T. BRIETZKE, Deceased  
Probate No. ESPR019126  
NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL,  
WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Grace T. Brietzke, Deceased, who died on or about March 21, 2025.

You are hereby notified that on the 15th day of May, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Grace T. Brietzke, deceased, bearing date of the 7th day of April, 1993, was admitted to probate in the above named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2025  
John W. Brietzke, Proponent  
902 Riverview Drive  
Nora Springs, Iowa 50458

Matthew F. Berry  
ICIS Pin No. AT0000802  
Laird Law Firm, P.L.C.  
403 Main Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Clear Lake, IA 50428  
Attorneys for Estate

Date of second publication  
day 10th of June, 2025.

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## Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
FOR FLOYD COUNTY IN THE  
MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
Robert J. Reams, Deceased  
CASE NO. ESPR019129  
NOTICE OF PROOF OF WILL  
WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Robert J. Reams, Deceased, who died on or about on April 22, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on May 21, 2025, the last will and testament of Robert J. Reams, deceased, bearing date of April 27, 2022, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Dated on May 27, 2025.  
Mitchell A. Reams, Proponent  
2711 County Road I  
Saukville, Wisconsin 53080

Attorney for estate:  
David A. Grooters.  
ICIS#: AT0003058  
Pappajohn, Shriver, Eide &  
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Mason City, Iowa 50401  
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## RFK Jr. ousts entire CDC vaccine advisory committee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Monday removed every member of a scientific committee that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines and pledged to replace them with his own picks.

Major physicians groups criticized the move to oust all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Kennedy, who was one of the nation's leading anti-vaccine activists before becoming the nation's top health official, has not said who he would appoint to the panel, but said it would convene in just two weeks in Atlanta.

Although it's typically not viewed as a partisan board, the Biden administration had installed the entire committee.

"Without removing the current members, the current Trump administration would not have been able to appoint a majority of new members until 2028," Kennedy wrote. "A clean sweep is needed to re-establish public confidence in vaccine science."

Kennedy, in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece, said the committee members had too many conflicts of interest. Committee members routinely disclose any possible conflicts at the start of public meetings

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